



# Manchester Public Schools



**What's  
Today's  
News?**

## Family Resource Centers Expand from 1 to 5 Locations...



**At the start of the 2014-15 school year, Manchester Public Schools expanded the number of family resource centers from one, located at Washington School, to a total of five expanding to Bowers, Robertson, Verplanck and Waddell....**

This expansion will allow for more immediate family and community engagement when students and families need support. These Family Resource Centers are funded by the Alliance Grant, awarded by the State of Connecticut. The Connecticut Family Resource Center concept promotes comprehensive, integrated, community-based systems of family support and child development services located in public school buildings. This model is based on the "Schools of the 21st Century" concept developed by Dr. Edward Zigler of Yale University. Family Resource Centers provide access, within a community, to a broad continuum of early childhood and family support services which foster the optimal development of children and families.

The Family Resource Center located at Washington Elementary school has been in existence for more than 15 years. The FRC is funded by the Connecticut State Department of Education and is overseen by ECHN/MMH Hospital. The Washington Family Resource Center is the model for the four centers that the district has established. The four coordinators and the director spent two weeks together this summer planning programs and events for students and their families. The centers will host playgroups, parent/family engagement workshops, positive youth programs with students in fourth and fifth grade, and outreach events in the Manchester community. Also resource and referral will be an important aspect of each Family Resource Center.

The Family Resource Centers support and uplift the school-family-community partnership, by providing a broad base of educational and supportive programs. Our success in fulfilling our mission hinges on positive and healthy community and family relationships. In delivering our services, we work closely with schools, social service agencies, and our community partners. We anticipate that we will be busy, and with a strong, positive, energy we'll succeed in bringing informative and enjoyable programs to our schools.



**Manchester Public Schools | 45 North School St. | Manchester, CT**